

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY MEXICO IMMEDIATE IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY ROME IMMEDIATE

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAGR, WFC, ETRD

SUBJECT:BERGLAND'S ADDRESS TO WFC.

FOR FERCH FROM QUENTIN WEST.

1. THIS IS A WORKING DRAFT. IT HAS BEEN CLEARED BY
USDA,EB AND IO. YOUR COMMENTS WELCOMED.
BEGIN TEXT. I APPRECIATE THE OPPORTUNITY TO PARTICIPATE
AGAIN IN THE WORK OF THE WORLD FOOD COUNCIL. IT IS ESPE-
CIALLY GRATIFYING TO MEET WITH YOU WITHIN THE BORDERS OF
OUR GOOD AND CLOSE NEIGHBOR, MEXICO, AND TO ENJOY ITS RE-
NOWNED HOSPITALITY.

I WOULD LIKE TO PAY WARM PERSONAL TRIBUTE TO WORLD FOOD
COUNCIL PRESIDENT ARTURO TANCO. HIS DISTINGUISHED STEWARD-
SHIP TO THE COUNCIL OVER THE PAST YEAR, HIS ENERGY AND
ENTHUSIASM HAVE BEEN AN INSPIRATION TO OTHER THROUGH OUT
THE YEAR.

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SPECIAL MENTION IS ALSO DUE TO DR. JOHN HANNAH. AS
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THIS BODY, HE HAS PLACED A MAJOR
IMPRINT ON THIS ORGANIZATION AND ITS FUTURE. BEFORE THAT

OF COURSE HE HAD A DISTINGUISHED CAREER IN BOTH INTER-
NATIONAL AND U.S. DEVELOPMENT EFFORTS IN AGRICULTURE. AS

HE PREPARES TO RETIRE IN THE NEAR FUTURE, HE HAS OUR WARM-EST GOOD WISHES AND OUR PROMISE TO MAINTAIN THE HIGH STANDARD OF EXCELLENCE THAT HE HAS DEMONSTRATED THROUGHOUT A LONG AND MOST EXCEPTIONAL CAREER.

OUR IMMEDIATE JOB IN THE WORLD FOOD COUNCIL IS TO BUILD ON THE SOLID ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF THE THIRD MINISTERIAL SESSION IN MANILA. THIS FOURTH SESSION SHOULD MOVE ON FROM THERE TO ADDRESS THE SPECIFIC CONSTRAINTS THAT IMPEDE THE ELIMINATION OF HUNGER AND MALNUTRITION. ALTHOUGH WORLD GRAIN STOCKS ARE DOWN SLIGHTLY IN 1978, STOCKS HAVE GENERALLY INCREASED IN RECENT YEARS AND NOW PROVIDE SOME SENSE OF FOOD SECURITY. NEVERTHELESS THERE HAS BEEN LITTLE PROGRESS IN RESOLVING THE UNDERLYING CAUSES OF FOOD INSECURITY AND SOME 600 MILLION PEOPLE IN THE WORLD ARE MALNOURISHED. THE NUMBER UNFORTUNATELY IS GROWING. THUS OUR WORK IS FAR FROM OVER; IT HAS JUST BEGUN.

MOST OF THE GOVERNMENTS REPRESENTED HERE PURSUE SIMILAR DOMESTIC FOOD POLICY OBJECTIVES, NAMELY AN ASSURED, ADEQUATE SUPPLY OF FOODSTUFF AT PRICES FAIR TO BOTH PRODUCERS AND CONSUMERS. THESE ARE THE SAME GOALS THAT WE AS MEMBERS OF THE WFC SEEK GLOBALLY.

I FIRMLY BELIEVE THAT THE ONLY WAY TO ACHIEVE THIS IS THROUGH GREATER COOPERATION AMONG NATIONS. IN OUR GROWING UNCLASSIFIED

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RECOGNITION OF GLOBAL ECONOMIC INTERDEPENDENCE, WE MUST FIND THE WAYS TO WORK TOGETHER ON A WIDE RANGE OF ISSUES WHICH AFFECT FOOD PRODUCTION AND FOOD AVAILABILITY INCLUDING: COMMODITY AGREEMENTS, TRADE LIBERALIZATION, RESERVE POLICIES, FOOD AID, NUTRITION, AND EXCHANGE OF TECHNOLOGY. DISCUSSION ABOUT THESE CANNOT BE DIVORCED FROM THE NEED OF COUNTRIES TO CHANGE INTERNAL POLICIES THAT ACTUALLY DISCOURAGE FARMERS FROM PRODUCING OR RESTRICT THE ACCESS OF CONSUMERS TO THE BENEFITS OF PRODUCTION.

WE ARE HOPEFUL THAT A NEW INTERNATIONAL WHEAT AGREEMENT WILL BE NEGOTIATED IN THE FALL, AND WE EXPECT IT TO INCLUDE AN ENLARGED AND STRENGTHENED FOOD AID CONVENTION. TALKS ARE NOW UNDERWAY IN LONDON WHICH HOPEFULLY WILL RESULT IN A RECOMMENDATION TO UNCTAD TO CONVENE A NEW IWA NEGOTIATION IN THE FALL.

MEANWHILE, THE U.S. CONGRESS IS CONSIDERING AN ADMINISTRATION PROPOSAL FOR A SPECIAL INTERNATIONAL EMERGENCY WHEAT

RESERVE. THE RESERVE WILL BE GOVERNMENT HELD AND WILL SERVE AS A GUARANTEE OF U.S. INTERNATIONAL FOOD COMMITMENTS.

IN ADDITION, THE U.S. DOMESTIC RESERVE NOW AMOUNTS TO 10 MILLION TONS OF WHEAT WHICH PROVIDE AN ADDITIONAL DEGREE OF WORLD FOOD SECURITY.

THE LATE AND DISTINGUISHED SENATOR HUBERT HUMPHREY, HAD A DEEP AND ABIDING CONCERN FOR THE POOR AND UNDERPRIVILEGED PEOPLE OF HIS OWN AND OTHER COUNTRIES. HE WAS PARTICULARLY ANXIOUS THAT THE USG STRENGTHEN ITS EFFORTS IN THE DEVELOPMENTAL AREA AND INTRODUCED LEGISLATION TO THAT END. IN THIS SPIRIT, PRESIDENT CARTER HAS ALREADY DIRECTED THAT ALL U.S. FOREIGN FOOD AID AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE ACTIVITIES BE REVIEWED. THIS WORK IS NOW UNDERWAY, AND CHANGES BOTH IN OUR BILATERAL AND MULTILATERAL ACTIVITIES, DESIGNED TO ACHIEVE A GREATER EFFECTIVENESS WILL BE MADE IN UNCLASSIFIED

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THE COMING MONTHS.

EFFORTS TO ACCELERATE FOOD AND AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT HAVE TWO DIMENSIONS:

FIRST, ADDITIONAL FINANCIAL RESOURCES, NEW INITIATIVES AND GREATER DISSEMINATION OF KNOWLEDGE AMONG PRODUCERS ARE NEEDED TO EXPAND FOOD OUTPUT, TO IMPROVE DISTRIBUTION AND NUTRITION, AND ACCESS TO HEALTH AND SANITATION FACILITIES.

SECOND, IT WAS RECOGNIZED BY THE WORLD FOOD CONFERENCE AND REPEATED BY THE COUNCIL AT MANILA IN 1977, INTERNAL POLICY REFORMS ARE NEEDED WITHIN MANY COUNTRIES. THESE REFORMS SHOULD ELIMINATE POLICIES WHICH ARE DISINCENTIVES TO INCREASED AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION AND RESTRICTIONS ON THE ACCESS BY THE IMPOVERISHED MAJORITY TO THE FRUITS OF THAT PRODUCTION. SUCH DISINCENTIVES INCLUDE PRICE CONTROLS, NON-COMPETITIVE BUYING, EXPORT CONTROLS, IMPORT SUBSIDIES, FOREIGN EXCHANGE CONTROLS, AND RESTRICTIONS ON CREDIT, INEQUITABLE AND INEFFICIENT LAND TENURE PATTERNS AND RESTRICTIONS ON INTERNAL MOVEMENT OF FAMILIES AND WORKERS.

ACCELERATING AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT IN FOOD DEFICIT DEVELOPING COUNTRIES IS A RESPONSIBILITY WE ALL SHARE. IT YIELDS BENEFITS FOR US ALL. WE ALL KNOW THAT:

-- POOR COUNTRIES CANNOT PAY FOR THEIR FOOD IMPORT NEEDS AND POOR PEOPLE CANNOT AFFORD EVEN COMMERCIAL-
LY AVAILABLE FOOD AND OTHER ESSENTIAL GOODS. IT IS NOW RECOGNIZED THAT CONCESSIONAL FOOD AID, NO MATTER HOW WELL INTENDED, IS NOT THE ANSWER. WHILE IT IS

A USEFUL BRIDGE IN THE SHORT TERM, TOO STEADY
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RELIANCE ON SUCH AID CAN ADVERSELY AFFECT AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION EFFORTS IN THOSE COUNTRIES WHERE THEY ARE MOST NEEDED. ECONOMIC GROWTH OF DEVELOPING COUNTRIES IS AN ESSENTIAL ELEMENT FOR OVERALL INCREASES IN WORLD TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT. BECAUSE MOST DEVELOPING COUNTRIES ARE LARGELY RURAL, THEIR AGRICULTURAL SECTORS ARE THE KEY TO THEIR GENERAL DEVELOPMENT.

-- ACCELERATED DEVELOPMENT TO BE FULLY EFFECTIVE MUST BE COUPLED WITH IMPROVED FOOD DISTRIBUTION AND CONSUMPTION--PARTICULARLY AMONG THE MOST VULNERABLE GROUPS. ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT TO BE MEANINGFUL MUST INVOLVE ALL SECTORS OF SOCIETY NOT SIMPLY THE MORE AFFLUENT.

-- EFFORTS TO INCREASE FOOD PRODUCTION MUST BE CLOSELY LINKED TO RESTRAINING HIGH POPULATION GROWTH. IF THIS IS NOT DONE WE LOSE ALL THE BENEFITS THAT INCREASED FOOD PRODUCTION CAN BRING.

IMPROVED ACCESS TO FOOD AND MORE NUTRITIOUS DIETS ARE BOTH MEANS AND ENDS TO ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT. HENCE THE UNITED STATES COMMENDS AND SUPPORTS THE EMPHASIS THAT THIS WORLD FOOD COUNCIL SESSION IS GIVING TO IMPROVING NUTRITION. MALNUTRITION MEANS HIGH DEATH RATES, A GREATER INCIDENCE OF DEBILITATING DISEASE AND, IN SUM, THE DEPRIVATION OF, ESSENTIAL HUMAN DIGNITY. MALNOURISHED PEOPLE CANNOT CONTRIBUTE MEANINGFULLY TO THEIR COUNTRY'S ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT. ADEQUATE NUTRITION MUST BE A BASIC HUMAN RIGHT.

WITH THIS IN MIND, THE U.S. GOVERNMENT IS SEEKING WAYS TO ASSIST NUTRITION PROGRAMS OF THE INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT AGENCIES BOTH WITH FUNDS AND EXPERTISE. IN THE NEAR FUTURE, MY GOVERNMENT EXPECTS TO ESTABLISH A NEW COMMISSION, WHICH WILL BRING TOGETHER THE TALENTS AND EXPERIENCE OF THE

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PUBLIC AND PRIVATE SECTOR TO PROPOSE WAYS IN WHICH THE UNITED STATES EFFORTS TO ELIMINATE DOMESTIC AND INTERNATIONAL HUNGER AND MALNUTRITION CAN BE MADE MORE EFFECTIVE.

THE SECRETARIAT HAS PUT BEFORE THE COUNCIL A NUMBER OF WORTHY SUGGESTIONS. AMONG THESE ARE THE COUNCIL'S OBJECTIVES AND PRINCIPLES ON FOOD AID AND FOOD SECURITY AND THE

NEED FOR INTERNATIONAL ACTIONS TO INSURE ACCESS TO ADEQUATE
SUPPLIES OF FOOD AND IMPROVED NUTRITION, PARTICULARLY AMONG

THE VERY POOR AND VULNERABLE GROUPS.

THE UNITED STATES FAVORS THE FOOD PLANS PROPOSED BY
THE WORLD FOOD COUNCIL SECRETARIAT AND ARE READY TO ASSIST
FOOD PRIORITY COUNTRIES IN DEVELOPING THEIR NATIONAL FOOD
AND NUTRITION STRATEGIES. WE ALSO STAND READY TO PARTI-
CIPATE WITH OTHER DONOR COUNTRIES AND INTERNATIONAL
ORGANIZATIONS IN CONSIDERING WAYS IN WHICH RESOURCE GAPS
IDENTIFIED IN SUCH FOOD PLANS MIGHT BE MET.

IF THE FOOD PLANS ARE TO MEET THEIR OBJECTIVES, THEY
WILL REQUIRE CONCERTED EFFORTS BY RECIPIENT COUNTRIES,
TRADITIONAL DONORS, AND NEW DONOR COUNTRIES AND INTERNA-
TIONAL ORGANIZATIONS. SUCCESS WILL OFTEN REQUIRE WILLING-
NESS TO ADAPT AND MAKE POLICY CHANGES, TO OVERCOME INTERNAL
CONSTRAINTS IDENTIFIED IN NATIONAL FOOD PLANS.

THANK YOU, MR. CHAIRMAN. VANCE

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